

### **AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS**

1. (canceled) A stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers, which includes:  
an array of fingerboard position markers, said array of fingerboard position markers comprising a component part of a fingerboard, said fingerboard comprising a component part of a stringed instrument;  
each position marker of said array is positioned in a one-to-one correspondence with a string of the stringed instrument; and  
at least one of the position markers of said array of position markers includes a variation in a user discernable characteristic.

2. (canceled) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 1, wherein at least one of the position markers of said array of position markers distinguishes at least an octave.

3. (canceled) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 1, wherein each position marker of said array of position markers is in a one-to-one correspondence to each note of a plurality of notes.

4. (canceled) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 3, wherein at least one of the position markers of said array of position markers distinguishes at least an octave.

5. (canceled) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 1, wherein each position marker of said array of position markers is proximate to a specific note of a group of notes on the stringed instrument fingerboard, the group of notes consisting of any individual major scale.

6. (canceled) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 5, wherein at least one of the position markers of said array of position markers distinguishes at least an octave.

7. (canceled) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 1, wherein each position marker of said array of position markers is proximate to a specific note of a group of notes on the stringed instrument fingerboard, the group of notes consisting of any individual major pentatonic scale.

8. (canceled) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 7, wherein at least one of the position markers of said array of position markers distinguishes at least an octave.

9. (canceled) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 1, wherein each position marker of said array of position markers is proximate to a specific note of a group of notes on the stringed instrument fingerboard, the group of notes consisting of C#/Db, D#/Eb, F#/Gb, G#/Ab, and A#/Bb.

10. (canceled) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 9, wherein at least one of the position markers of said array of position markers distinguishes at least an octave.

11. (canceled) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 9, wherein: the position markers include a first group of two notes, the first group of two notes consisting of C#/Db and D#/Eb; the position markers include a second group of three notes, the second group of three notes consisting of F#/Gb, G#/Ab, and A#/Bb; and the first group of position markers distinguishable from the second group of position markers.

12. (canceled) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 11, wherein the position marker for a G#/Ab note is distinguishable from the position marker for a F#/Gb note, and the position marker for the G#/Ab note is distinguishable from the position marker for an A#/Bb note.

13. (currently amended) ~~The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 9;~~  
wherein:

A stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers, which includes:

an array of fingerboard position markers, said array of fingerboard position markers comprising a component part of a fingerboard, said fingerboard comprising a component part of a stringed instrument;

each position marker of said array is positioned in a one-to-one correspondence with a string of the stringed instrument;

each position marker of said array of position markers is proximate to a specific note of a group of notes on the stringed instrument fingerboard, the group of notes consisting of C#/Db, D#/Eb, F#/Gb, G#/Ab, and A#/Bb;

the position marker for each note C#/Db is a first user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note D#/Eb is the first user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note F#/Gb is a second user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note G#/Ab is a third user discernable characteristic; and

the position marker for each note A#/Bb is the second user discernable characteristic.

14. (original) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 13, wherein at least one of the position markers of said array of position markers distinguishes at least an octave.

15. (canceled) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 1, wherein each position marker of said array of position markers is proximate to a specific note of a group of notes on the stringed instrument fingerboard, the group of notes consisting of B, E, A, D, and G.

16. (canceled) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 15, wherein at least one of the position markers of said array of position markers distinguishes at least an octave.

17. (currently amended) ~~The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 15;~~  
~~wherein:~~

A stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers, which includes:

an array of fingerboard position markers, said array of fingerboard position markers comprising a component part of a fingerboard, said fingerboard comprising a component part of a stringed instrument;

each position marker of said array is positioned in a one-to-one correspondence with a string of the stringed instrument;

each position marker of said array of position markers is proximate to a specific note of a group of notes on the stringed instrument fingerboard, the group of notes consisting of B, E, A, D, and G;

the position marker for each note B is a first user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note E is a second user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note A is a third user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note D is a fourth user discernable characteristic; and

the position marker for each note G is a fifth user discernable characteristic.

18. (original) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 17, wherein at least one of the position markers of said array of position markers distinguishes at least an octave.

19. (canceled) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 1, wherein each position marker of said array of position markers is proximate to a specific note of a group of notes on the stringed instrument fingerboard, the group of notes consisting of C, D, E, F, G, A, and B.

20. (canceled) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 19, wherein at least one of the position markers of said array of position markers distinguishes at least an octave.

21. (currently amended) ~~The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 19,~~  
wherein:

A stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers, which includes:

an array of fingerboard position markers, said array of fingerboard position markers comprising a component part of a fingerboard, said fingerboard comprising a component part of a stringed instrument;

each position marker of said array is positioned in a one-to-one correspondence with a string of the stringed instrument;

each position marker of said array of position markers is proximate to a specific note of a group of notes on the stringed instrument fingerboard, the group of notes consisting of C, D, E, F, G, A, and B;

the position marker for each note C is a first user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note D is a second user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note E is a third user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note F is the third user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note G is a fourth user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note A is a fifth user discernable characteristic; and

the position marker for each note B is the first user discernable characteristic.

22. (original) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 21, wherein at least one of the position markers of said array of position markers distinguishes at least an octave.

23. (new) A stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers, which includes:  
an array of fingerboard position markers, said array of fingerboard position markers comprising a component part of a fingerboard, said fingerboard comprising a component part of a stringed instrument;  
each position marker of said array is positioned in a one-to-one correspondence with a string of the stringed instrument;

each position marker of said array is proximate to a specific note of a group of notes on the stringed instrument fingerboard, the group of notes consisting of any individual major pentatonic scale; and

at least three of the position markers of said array have user discernable characteristics that are different from each other.

24. (new) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 23, wherein at least one of the position markers of said array of position markers distinguishes at least an octave.

25. (new) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 23, wherein:  
the position marker for the first note of an individual major pentatonic scale is a first user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for the second note of the individual major pentatonic scale is a second user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for the third note of the individual major pentatonic scale is a third user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for the fourth note of the individual major pentatonic scale is a fourth user discernable characteristic; and  
the position marker for the fifth note of the individual major pentatonic scale is a fifth user discernable characteristic.



26. (new) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 23, wherein:  
the group of notes consists of the G major pentatonic scale where  
the position marker for each note B is a first user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for each note E is a second user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for each note A is a third user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for each note D is a fourth user discernable characteristic; and  
the position marker for each note G is a fifth user discernable characteristic.

27. (new) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 26, wherein:  
the first user discernable characteristic is a diamond shape;  
the second user discernable characteristic is a square shape;  
the third user discernable characteristic is a triangle shape;  
the fourth user discernable characteristic is a semicircle shape; and  
the fifth user discernable characteristic is a circle shape.

28. (new) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 23, wherein:  
the group of notes consists of the F#/Gb major pentatonic scale where  
the position marker for each note C#/Db is a first user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for each note D#/Eb is a second user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for each note F#/Gb is a third user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for each note G#/Ab is a fourth user discernable characteristic; and  
the position marker for each note A#/Bb is a fifth user discernable characteristic.

29. (new) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 23, wherein:  
the group of notes consists of the F#/Gb major pentatonic scale where  
the position marker for each note C#/Db is a first user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for each note D#/Eb is the first user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for each note F#/Gb is a second user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for each note G#/Ab is a third user discernable characteristic; and  
the position marker for each note A#/Bb is the second user discernable characteristic.

30. (new) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 29, wherein:  
the first user discernable characteristic is a circle shape;  
the second user discernable characteristic is a square shape; and  
the third user discernable characteristic is a diamond shape.

31. (new) A stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers, which includes:  
an array of fingerboard position markers, said array of fingerboard position markers comprising a  
component part of a fingerboard, said fingerboard comprising a component part of a stringed  
instrument;  
each position marker of said array is positioned in a one-to-one correspondence with a string of  
the stringed instrument;  
each position marker of said array is proximate to a specific note of a group of notes on the  
stringed instrument fingerboard, the group of notes consisting of any individual major scale; and  
at least three of the position markers of said array have user discernable characteristics that are  
different from each other.

32. (new) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 31, wherein at least one of the position markers of said array of position markers distinguishes at least an octave.

33. (new) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 31, wherein:  
the position marker for the first note of an individual major scale is a first user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for the second note of the individual major scale is a second user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for the third note of the individual major scale is a third user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for the fourth note of the individual major scale is a fourth user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for the fifth note of the individual major scale is a fifth user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for the sixth note of the individual major scale is a sixth user discernable characteristic; and  
the position marker for the seventh note of the individual major scale is a seventh user discernable characteristic.

34. (new) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 31, wherein:  
the group of notes consists of the C major scale where  
the position marker for each note C is a first user discernable characteristic;

the position marker for each note D is a second user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for each note E is a third user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for each note F is the third user discernable characteristic;  
the position marker for each note G is a fourth user discernable characteristic.  
the position marker for each note A is a fifth user discernable characteristic; and  
the position marker for each note B is the first user discernable characteristic.

35. (new) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 34, wherein:

the first user discernable characteristic is a circle shape;  
the second user discernable characteristic is a semicircle shape;  
the third user discernable characteristic is a square shape;  
the fourth user discernable characteristic is a diamond shape; and  
the fifth user discernable characteristic is a triangle shape.

36. (new) A stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers, which includes:

an array of fingerboard position markers, said array of fingerboard position markers comprising a component part of a fingerboard, said fingerboard comprising a component part of a stringed instrument;  
each position marker of said array is positioned in a one-to-one correspondence with a string of the stringed instrument;  
each position marker of said array is proximate to a specific note of a group of notes on the stringed instrument fingerboard, the group of notes consisting of any individual scale, said scale including at least three notes and not more than seven notes; and

at least three of the position markers of said array have user discernable characteristics that are different from each other.

37. (new) The stringed instrument fingerboard with position markers of claim 36, wherein at least one of the position markers of said array of position markers distinguishes at least an octave.